

Minutes from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Services Center on
March 26, 2013 at 7 pm.

Disclaimer: I hope you will find these notes helpful. They are not a complete representation of the meeting, but rather the highlights of topics discussed. Feel free to contact Carrie or Derek at Westfield City Services Center: communications@westfield.in.gov or (317) 804-3001 if you have any questions.

March 26, 2013

Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Q & A with Mayor Cook
- III. Energy Savings Program for HOAs – Jennifer Dennis
- IV. NextDoor social network demo – Aaron Sherrick



I. Welcome

Jim Ake welcomed everyone and introduced himself. Room went around and introduced themselves one at a time.

II. Q & A with Mayor Cook

Mayor began by thanking everyone for their cooperation during the snow event that occurred the previous days. He reminded everyone that crews will not start plowing subdivision streets until the snow stops. He mentioned that the last snow event, crews began at 7am and other departments were called upon to free up employees to help plow.

Q: Will snow plow drivers be affected by the utility transfer?

A: Yes. There is some discussion on privatizing portions of the plowing – much like the City has already done with park maintenance.

Q: Are there hard dates for the closing of 161st Street for the US 31 freeway project?

A: Yes. April 15th is the close date for 161st Street. There will no access to US 31 from 161st street in either direction. 161st Street is the only intersection to be completely cut off during construction. Closure is expected to last 120 days.

Q: Will the Cool Creek Bridge on 161st Street near Union Street be widened?

A: Yes, hopefully this year. County Commissioner, Mark Heirbrandt, is fighting to get it completed in 2013.

Mayor expanding on the topic of 161st Street stating that during the closure, a pedestrian tunnel for the Monon Trail will be buried under 161st Street to be completed at a later time when funds are available.

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Q: What's the latest on the 161st Street/US 31 development – Lantern Commons?

A: The developers keep in touch, but no official conversation with the City yet.

Q: With trees being destroyed along US31 for the freeway project, is there any tree replacement plan?

A: No. The trees are on private land.

Q: On SR 32 there is a house that says “No” on the door. Why?

A: The house has not been cleared – in the legal sense – to knock it down.

Q: Has Wendy's decided on staying in Westfield

A: City tried to find land for them, but no location found yet.

Q: Closing 161st will make for bad traffic on surrounding streets, correct?

A: Residents are encouraged to use 169th Street, 146th, or SR 32 to cross US 31.

Q: Is the roundabout at 161st and Oak Ridge Rd still planned for this summer?

A: Probably not. Federal funding has been delayed. Property owners in the area are not happy about it and it has slowed down the acquisition phase.

After all questions were answered, Mayor gave an update on the progress out at Grand Park. The park is in the next phase of bidding. Phase V bid includes seed sodding, concession stands and lighting. Construction is on time and the park is expected to be in full scale operation April 2014. Mayor stated that some local play could happen this fall. Mayor Cook says the City will have several high profile announcements over the next six months regarding economic development around the park. He also mentioned that visitor estimates are higher than expected.

Q: How many tournaments have been scheduled at this point?

A: around 25

Mayor mentioned that real estate transactions in Westfield are highest in Central Indiana. Building permits are up from \$5 million last year at this time to \$25 million this year. Several businesses in Westfield are expanding, which is good news.

Mayor turned the meeting over to Police Chief, Joel Rush to give an update on his department.

Chief Rush said they are pushing their Facebook page for up to the minute updates on things happening in Westfield. He also promoted their Run with a Cop program with kicked off March

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27th. Chief reiterated that the police department wants to focus building a relationship with the community.

A discussion started on coyote issues around Westfield. Chief Rush noted that the DNR's website had a lot of good information. He said to not leave anything outside that would draw them closer to the neighborhoods – like small pets.

III. Energy Savings Program for HOAs – Jennifer Dennis

Jennifer Dennis, Community Outreach Coordinator for Energizing Indiana spoke on the opportunity HOAs have to make \$25 for each home in the neighborhood who receives an energy audit. During her presentation, she informed the group about the history of the program and showed examples of the energy assessment that takes place.

For more information, please view her presentation [here](#).

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IV. NextDoor social network demo – Aaron Sherrick

Countryside resident, Aaron Sherrick presented NextDoor social media network. NextDoor is the private social network for you, your neighbors and your community. It's the easiest way for you and your neighbors to talk online and make all of your lives better in the real world. And it's free.

Aaron explained that in addition to implementing NextDoor, Countryside is working with the Westfield Police through NextDoor to expand safety measures in the neighborhood.

During the discussion and presentation, questions arose as to how secure NextDoor was for people who had signed up. NextDoor claims the site is secure. For more information about NextDoor, please visit: www.nextdoor.com. You can also view Aaron's presentation [here](#).

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The next WeCAN meeting is on **Tuesday, April 30th, at 7pm** at the Westfield City Services Center in the Main Level Media Room.

If you have any topic suggestions or issues that you have questions on, please don't hesitate to contact us at communications@westfield.in.gov.

For updated announcements and information from the past meetings, please visit the WeCAN Website: www.westfield.in.gov – under “Community” tab